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R W CZCVYXCZC A0427
ŧPM-BREZHNEV:270
ŧANALYST SAYS BREZHNEV MAY NOT SURVIVE NEXT MONTHS
ŧBY BARTON REPPERT
ŧASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER
WASHINGTON (AP) - A SENIOR U.S. INTELLIGENCE ANALYST SAYS HE BELIEVES THE CHANCES ARE ABOUT 50-50 THAT AILING SOVIET PRESIDENT LEONID I. BREZHNEV MAY DIE OR BECOME SEVERELY INCAPACITATED DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS BECAUSE OF POOR HEALTH.

THE SOVIET AFFAIRS SPECIALIST, WHO ASKED THAT HE NOT BE IDENTIFIED, SAID WEDNESDAY THAT BREZHNEV'S BASIC HEALTH CONDITION APPARENTLY REMAINS ''FAIRLY PRECARIOUS'' DESPITE PERIODIC FLUCTUATIONS.

''THE OVERALL PATTERN SUGGESTS PROGRESSIVE CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE,'' THE ANALYST TOLD A DISCUSSION SESSION AT THE KENNAN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED RUSSIAN STUDIES.

HE NOTED THAT BREZHNEV, WHO TURNS 74 NEXT MONTH, HAS DROPPED FROM VIEW BECAUSE OF HEALTH PROBLEMS IN SEVERAL PAST WINTERS AND NOW APPEARS VULNERABLE TO CARDIOVASCULAR BOUTS WHICH COULD PROVE FATAL OR INCAPACITATING ENOUGH TO FORCE HIS RETIREMENT.

''I WOULD GIVE HIM ABOUT A 50-50 CHANCE OF GETTING THROUGH THIS WINTER,'' THE ANALYST SAID.

THE ANALYST ADDED THAT HE WAS EXPRESSING HIS PERSONAL VIEWS AND NOT NECESSARILY AN OFFICIAL U.S. ASSESSMENT.

BREZHNEV'S DEPARTURE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, IF IT OCCURRED, WOULD BE SURE TO COMPLICATE THE ALREADY UNCERTAIN CLIMATE OF SOVIET RELATIONS WITH THE INCOMING REAGAN ADMINISTRATION. IT ALSO WOULD POSE MAJOR QUESTIONS ABOUT FUTURE KREMLIN HANDLING OF SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, FRICTION OVER POLAND'S INDEPENDENT TRADE UNIONS AND THE SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN.

MANY WESTERN KREMLINOLOGISTS HAVE SPECULATED THAT POLITBURO MEMBER ANDREI P. KIRILENKO, 74, MAY EMERGE AS AN INTERIM SUCCESSOR TO BREZHNEV.
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